

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of Suburban Water Systems (U 339-W) for Authority to Increase Rates Charged for Water Service by \$5,633,937 or 12.1% in Fiscal 2006-2007, \$1,640,549 or 3.1% in Fiscal 2007-2008, and \$1,364,551 or 2.5% in Fiscal 2008-2009.

Application 05-08-034
(Filed August 22, 2005)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING
ORDERING PREPARATION OF APPENDICES**

This ruling orders Suburban Water Systems (Suburban) and the Division of Ratepayer Advocates (DRA)¹ to prepare the supporting appendices and tariff sheets necessary for a decision on their settlement agreement. This ruling also confirms extensions granted by e-mail.

Background

Suburban and DRA filed a joint motion for adoption of settlement agreement on February 17, 2006. The settlement agreement resolved all outstanding issues, including the policy issues identified in the December 16, 2005 scoping memo. On March 14, 2006 Suburban filed a motion for interim rate relief because the comment cycle on the proposed settlement agreement could result in a decision after the first day of the first test year, July 1, 2006, for Suburban's general rate case application.

¹ DRA formerly was known as the Office of Ratepayer Advocates.

William Robinson, a Director of the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District representing Division 4 ratepayers, submitted an opposition to the settlement agreement by e-mail on March 20, 2006. Robinson also mailed copies of the opposition with a certificate of service. However, the certificate of service was not signed. Suburban objected to the opposition being entered into the record in this proceeding in a March 27, 2006 letter. On March 28, 2006 I sent Robinson an e-mail asking him to contact me concerning an extension of time to file the opposition. Robinson sent a letter, dated March 28, 2006, noting that he was confused by the inclusion of the Los Angeles Docket Office on a Suburban pleading and had sent copies of his opposition to the LA Docket Office. On March 30, 2006, I sent a ruling by e-mail granting Robinson until April 5, 2006 to file the opposition and granting Suburban and DRA 15 days after the filing of the opposition to file reply comments.

Discussion

The schedule for the issuance of the decision on Suburban's application has fallen behind the schedule contemplated in the rate case plan. As Suburban notes, the application was filed late at DRA's request and the settlement agreement was not filed as expeditiously as contemplated. In order to expedite a decision on the settlement agreement, the assistance of Suburban and DRA in the preparation of all appendices and tariff sheets is necessary. Thus, I will order Suburban and DRA to prepare the required appendices and tariff sheets in support of the settlement agreement and submit them to myself and the Director of the Commission's Water Division on or before May 5, 2006.

I affirm my e-mail ruling of March 30, 2006, granting Robinson an extension of time until April 5, 2006 to file his opposition to the settlement

agreement. I further affirm the ruling granting Suburban and DRA 15 days from the filing of the opposition to file reply comments.

IT IS RULED that:

1. Suburban and DRA shall submit appendices and tariff sheets in support of the settlement agreement on or before May 5, 2006, as set forth herein.
2. The extension of time to file Robinson's opposition is affirmed, as set forth herein.

Dated April 20, 2006, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ JANICE GRAU
Janice Grau
Administrative Law Judge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have by mail this day served a true copy of the original attached Administrative Law Judge's Ruling Ordering preparation of Appendices on all parties of record in this proceeding or their attorneys of record.

Dated April 20, 2006, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ JOYCE TOM

Joyce Tom

N O T I C E

Parties should notify the Process Office, Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2000, San Francisco, CA 94102, of any change of address to insure that they continue to receive documents. You must indicate the proceeding number on the service list on which your name appears.